

**Fairfax County 250<sup>th</sup> Commission**  
**May 22, 2024, 1-2:00 pm**  
**National Library for the Study of George Washington Building**  
**3600 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon, VA**  
**Approved Meeting Minutes**

**Attendance**

|   |  |         |
|---|--|---------|
| Julie Almay                                     | GW Mount Vernon  | Present |
| Christopher Barbuschak                          | Virginia Room, Fairfax County Library                    | Present |
| Joyce Gray Bellamy                              | Providence District                                      | Present |
| Elliot B. Bell-Krasner<br>Commission Vice-Chair | Human Rights Commission                                  | Present |
| Gretchen Bulova                                 | History Commission                                       | Present |
| Brent Feito                                     | The Army Historical Foundation                           | Present |
| The Honorable Michael R. Frey                   | Sully District   | Absent  |
| Laura Grape                                     | Fairfax County Park Authority                            | Present |
| Paul Kohlenberger                               | Springfield District                                     | Present |
| Megan Leining                                   | City of Fairfax, Historic Resources Specialist           | Absent  |
| Patrick Lennon                                  | Visit Fairfax  | Remote  |
| Tammy Mannarino                                 | History Commission                                       | Present |
| Elizabeth Maurer                                | National Museum of the US Army                           | Present |
| Subhi A. Mehdi                                  | Dranesville District                                     | Remote  |
| Garrett McGuire                                 | At-large, Chairman Appointee                             | Present |
| Suzanne Moffitt                                 | Hunter Mill District                                     | Present |
| Latriece Prince-Wheeler                         | Franconia District                                       | Absent  |
| Nancy Rosenbaum                                 | Mount Vernon District                                    | Present |
| Paola Schiappacasse                             | Fairfax County Park Authority                            | Present |
| Beverly A. Schlotterbeck                        | Mason District   | Present |
| Nancy Simmons<br>Commission Secretary           | Braddock District  | Present |
| Scott Stroh<br>Commission Chair                 | Gunston Hall   | Present |
| Ashley Morris                                   | CEO Celebrate Fairfax                                    | Present |
| Trinity Yansick                                 | Celebrate Fairfax  | Present |
| Denice Dressel                                  | Heritage Resources, Department of Planning & Development | Present |
| Megan Riley                                     | Department of Planning & Development                     | Present |
| Ann Stuntz                                      | Member of the Public, Historic Vienna                    | Present |
| VACANT  | George Mason University                                  |         |

## **Welcome**

Mr. Stroh called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and acknowledged that a quorum was present. The Secretary also was present. Mr. Lennon participated remotely from Fairfax and Ms. Medhi participated remotely from McLean. It was determined that they could hear us and we could hear them.

## **Approval of March 2024 Minutes**

Mr. Stroh noted that the minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting and asked for comments or corrections. Ms. Simmons moved that we approve the minutes, Ms. Bellamy seconded the motion, and the motion passed by voice vote without dissension.

## **Committee Reports**

### Finance

Ms. Bulova reported that the Committee is waiting on the Commissions' Committees to submit their budget requests. Ms. Rosenbaum offered to meet one-on-one with any Committees needing assistance with this task. The Committee asked that estimates be provided to them no later than September 1, 2024. Ms. Dressel commented that the deadline would work well because the budget request should be submitted by the end of September. Mr. Stroh added that the chairs would work in September to finalize the budget request within the month.

### Inclusion

Mr. Bell-Krasner reported that this Committee had not met since the last Commission meeting, but hoped to meet within the coming month.

### Outreach

Ms. Simmons reported that discussions among the Committee chairs would continue in order to establish an email that could be used by the Commission. Ms. Dressel noted that the county could set up a list serv for the Commission and that we could invite those on the contact list to join it. The list serv could be used to distribute information, but email bounces would not be noted and it could not be used for communicating to the Commission. Once the list serv is established, other Commission members could invite their constituents to subscribe to it. It was agreed that Ms. Dressel would work with the Marketing and Outreach Committees to set up a template for the list serve. Ms. Bellamy noted that we need something that we can send out to people and Mr. Stroh noted that we will have pamphlets available once the fiscal arrangements are in place.

### Activity

Ms. Moffitt reported that her Committee had met in April and continued to discuss the projects they had previously identified. She noted that there is now a form available for groups and individuals to submit their events for publication on our Fairfax County America 250<sup>th</sup> page. The form is fillable online and is found at <https://www.fxva.com/fairfax250/events/submit-your-event/>.

### Marketing

Mr. Lennon reported that the Committee had not met since the last Commission meeting, but he had been involved in getting the funding mechanisms in place. Brochures/rack cards will be the top priority when the appropriated funds can be used.

### Signature Event

Three information sessions had been held in April. Ms. Maurer reported that two people attended the first session. One of the people had been looking for a county-level contact, so the meeting was productive. Mr. Bell-Krasner reported that he, Mr. Feito, and Ms. Bellamy attended the virtual session, which was attended by five people. The participants were interested in finding out how they could participate individually. Ms. Morris reported that she and Mr. Lennon attended the third session, which was attended by sixteen people. Among the attendees were members from the League of Women Voters, DAR, SAR, Fairfax County Genealogical Society, National Park Service, and others.

Ms. Moffett inquired if it was acceptable for a Committee to use a gmail for its communications. Ms. Dressel commented that as long as it was monitored, there would be no issue with using it.

### Youth and Family Engagement

Ms. Maurer reported that the Committee had not met since the last Commission meeting.

### Committee Chairs

Mr. Bell-Krasner reported that the chairs had not met since the last Commission meeting.

### Old Business

#### Fiscal Agent and Budget

Mr. Stroh reported that the final memorandum of understanding between the county and Visit Fairfax had been circulated and reviewed and was in the final review by the county. He thanked Barry Biggar, President & CEO of Visit Fairfax, Ms. Dressel, and Mr. Lennon for their help in finalizing the arrangements. Mr. McGuire asked which money would be handled by this agreement. Mr. Stroh replied that at this point we are only talking about public funds from the county and that discussions about using private funds have been tabled. He added that using private funds can be revisited, if needed.

Ms. Rosenbaum recommended that we strive to use resources, companies, and vendors, and other assets from within the county. It was also recommended that we use sales tax exemptions if they are available to us.

### New Business

#### VA250

Mr. Stroh reported that VA250 is holding an event in Richmond in the Capitol Square from 4-7 pm on July 4, 2024; and he encouraged everyone to attend. Also the VA250 is establishing advisory groups based on common goals. One such group is composed of members who are associated with museums.

### **Open Forum**

#### **Juneteenth**

Ms. Bellamy reported that a member of the Inclusion Committee is planning two events related to Juneteenth. One is June 15<sup>th</sup> at Frying Pan Park and one on June 19<sup>th</sup> at Sully Plantation.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

Mr. Stroh proposed that we continue meeting on the same schedule as in the past on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every other month, with the next meeting falling on July 24, 2024. Everyone agreed and Mr. Stroh asked Ms. Dressel to update the County calendar to reflect the meetings for the next year.

### **Adjourn**

Mr. Kohlenberger moved that the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Bell-Krasner seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote without dissent and the meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

### **Attachments**

Activity Committee Meeting Minutes from April 1, 2024

Respectfully Submitted by Nancy A. Simmons, Secretary

**Fairfax 250th Commission  
Activity Committee**

**Meeting Date: April 1, 2024**

**Location: City of Fairfax Regional Library**

Prepared by Brent Feito

**Attendees:**

Suzanne Moffitt - Chair

Brent Feito

Janice Dixon (virtual)

Forrest Crane

Elizabeth Crowell

Elizabeth Mauer (virtual)

Tammy Mannarino (virtual)

Paul Kohlenberger

**Minutes**

- Town halls on the 12th, 17th and 29th.
- Liz will be giving a presentation at the Town hall, and we are hoping that folks can come to as many as possible to support it.
- There is now an activity committee gmail that will be used for that communication.
- The 17th town hall will be a zoom meeting.
- The form for submitting the
- Members of the commission have passed along their respective communications contacts.

**Event Updates**

- Pohick Church - nothing to report at this time.
- AHF - Working on several things that will be released when they are approved.
- NMUSA - have several offerings in the next couple of years that will be input in the form as necessary.
- Naturalization ceremony - suggesting having this at the courthouse and working on getting a hold of a judge
  - Suggesting September for the naturalization ceremony as there are other ceremonies happening at Mt. Vernon, Gunston, etc.
  - Should add naturalization ceremonies that are happening at Rev War significant sites to the activities website through the form.
  - Need to find out who are sponsoring the events so that they can be added to the website.
- "Storycorps"
  - There was discussion about the statewide program at the last VA 250th gathering.
  - They were workshopping what was going to be done with the information that is being collected.
  - There will be a meeting with the various committee heads that have interest in a story collection program to coordinate their efforts.
- "Passport"
  - Have gotten in touch with park authority sites about who would be interested in participating
  - Discussed adding pop up events at archaeological sites that related to time period so that they could be destinations.

- Discussed whether there could be a QR code that could be scanned if there is not a person there to physically stamp the passport.
- Also discussed having a small 250th display that could be placed in the regional library.
- Called Patrick to wonder about access to the technology
- Hoping to start the program in summer 2025.
- Park authority is wondering what they have to display for the time period, and wondering whether there could be some coordination with the City of Fairfax visitor center and museum.
- Debate
  - Nothing new to report, but hoping to catch a professor that may be able to help.
  - Having trouble making headway and finding people to do the debate.
- Play
  - Wondered whether a film screening would be easier, and looked into the equipment necessary, as well as the licensing needed.
  - Wondering whether there could be something added to the event to give them a reason to go out, to come, and not just watch it at home.
- Fairfax Resolves Event
  - 18th of July is the anniversary, a number of events for that day and the weekend after.
    - Thursday
      - Guston Hall Ceremony and Plaque
      - Wreath laying ceremony
      - Pohick church plaque unveiling.
      - Ceremony in Market Square in Old Town Alexandria.
    - Friday
      - Number of tours
      - Luncheon
      - Memorial dedication
      - Dinner including descendants of the signers
      - Portrayer of Washington and Martha speaking at the Dinner
    - Saturday
      - One more dedication
      - Brewing company toast
  - Website will be going live next week
  - Will be added to the activities website
- History Commission
  - Got approval for funding from the history commission to print copies of the Fairfax Resolves (7500) for 2500 copies.
  - Will be available for all the July events
  - Conference: made connections with other resolves celebrations in other counties, and having the VA 250th commission put out a flier and information about all of the resolves throughout the state.
- 250 of independent volunteers
  - September 21, 2024 - looking at doing it at the veterans amphitheater in Fairfax city.
- Next Meeting: May 29